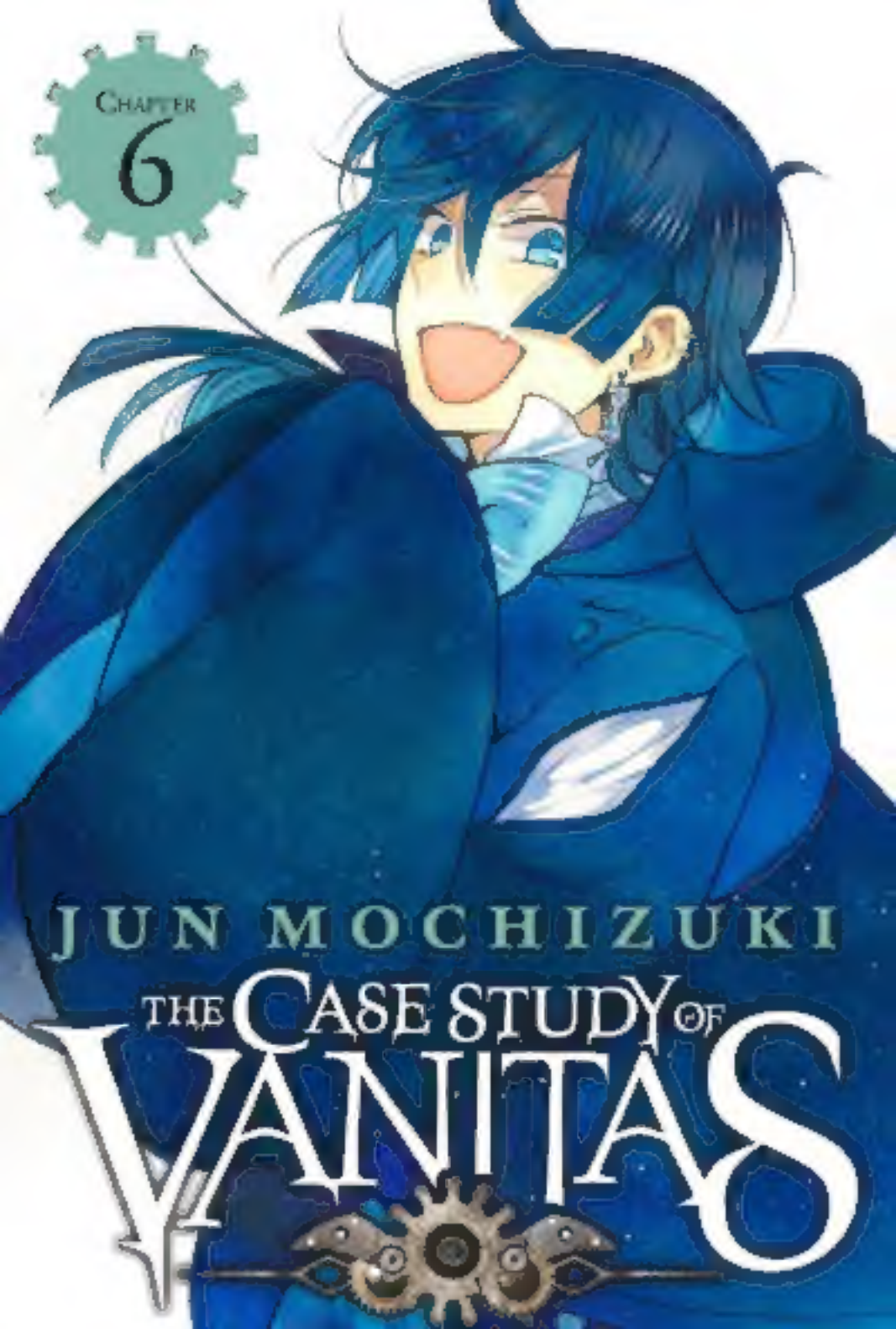
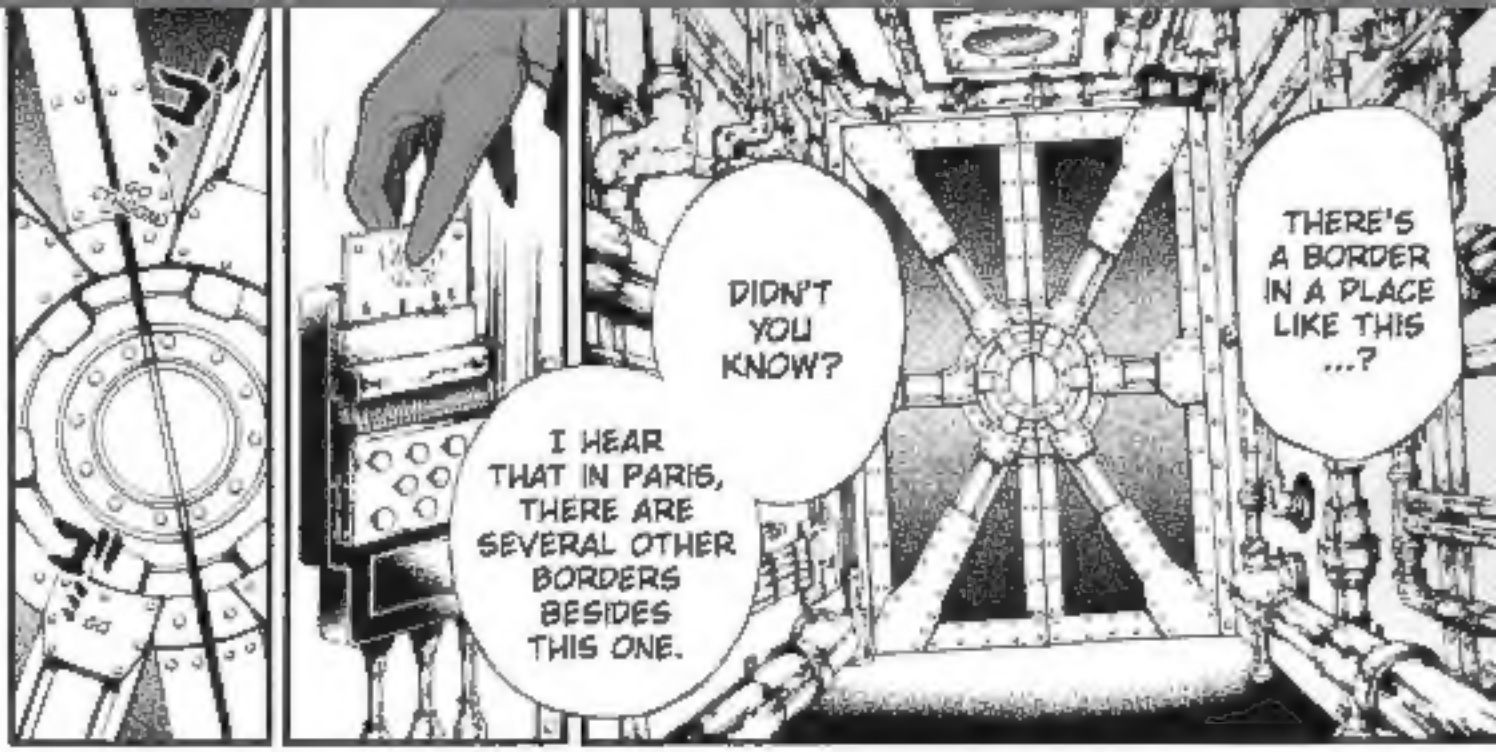

Chapter
6
JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS

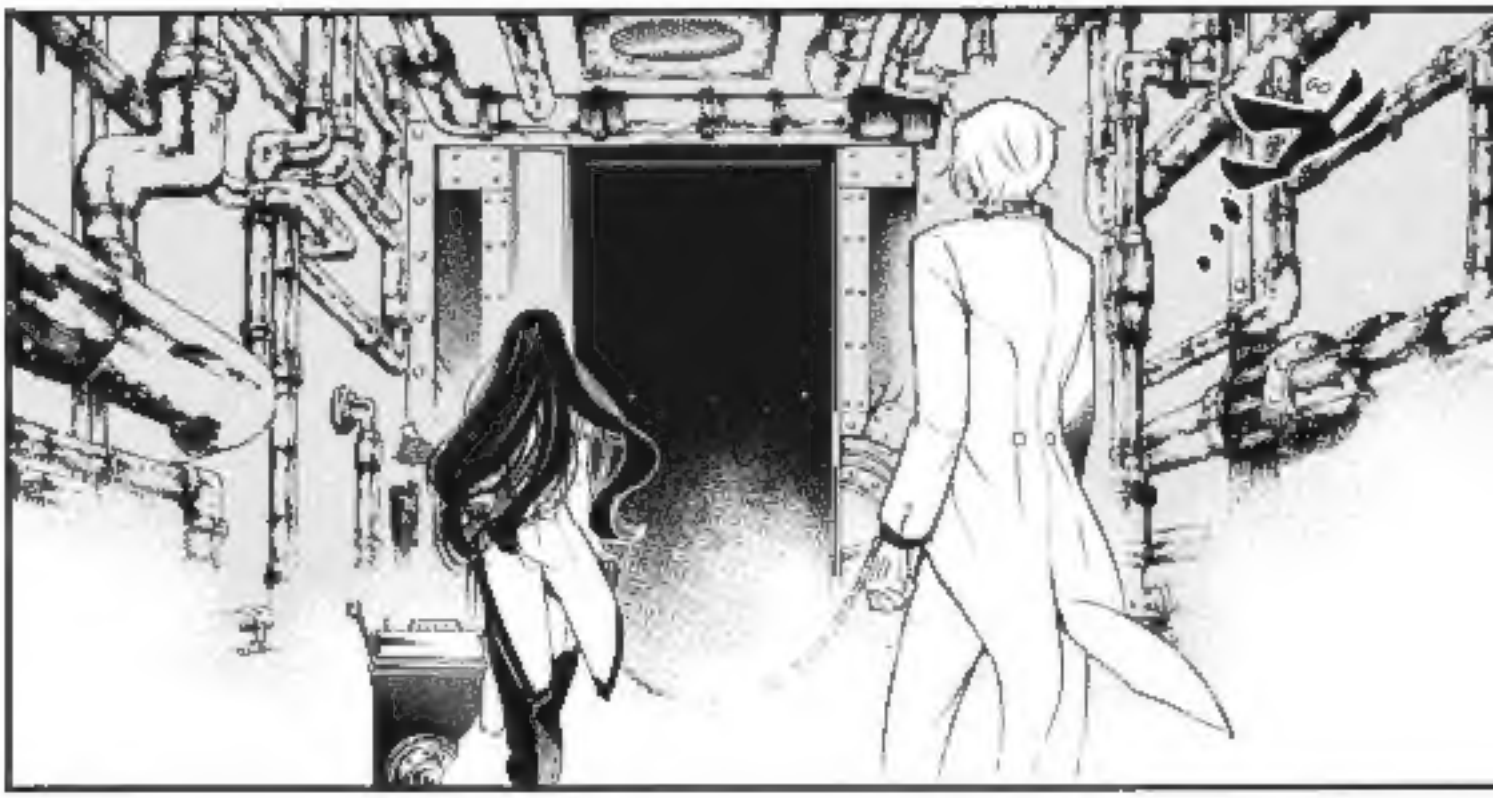
THAT IS WHAT MOST OF THE WORLD CALLS "LOST"!!
THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE MY MEMORIES WERE TEMPORARILY CONFUSED, AND I FORGOT HOW TO GET HOME! I WASN'T LOST!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, DOMI!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT SINCE THEN!!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW YOU WANDERED INTO THE FOREST SAYING THAT YOU'D FOUND A RARE BIRD, AND IT TOOK US FOUR DAYS TO FIND YOU!?

...THE MAN'S AN ENIGMA.
ON MY WAY HERE, I GOT THE "HANDYMAN" TO TELL ME ABOUT WHAT YOU AND THAT MAN DID IN PARIS.
...AND EVEN NOW, THAT HUMAN SEEMS TO BE USING YOU EXACTLY AS HE PLEASES.
YOU MEAN VANITAS?

I'D SAY HE'S PROBABLY DECEIVING YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?

PARDON US.
AH. GOOD DAY TO YOU.
(CREAK)
...
"...EVER SEEN STARS THAT BLOOM RED?"
"HAVE YOU...
GO AHEAD... IT'S RIGHT THROUGH THERE.
THE "BORDER."
IT'S A DISTORTION IN SPACE THAT LINKS THIS WORLD WITH ALTUS, THE OTHER WORLD WHERE VAMPIRES LIVE.


THERE'S A BORDER IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
I HEAR THAT IN PARIS, THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER BORDERS BESIDES THIS ONE.



I STILL HAVE TO TALK TO VANITAS ABOUT—
DOMI, WAIT!
Recording the current time.
Have a pleasant journey, Lady Dominique de Sade.
MM-HM.

LORD RUTHVEN WILL BE AT THE BAL MASQUÉ TONIGHT TOO.
YOU MAY MANAGE TO GET SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THAT CHARLATAN YOU WERE DISCUSSING.
RUMOR HAS IT THAT LORD RUTHVEN'S INDEPENDENTLY RESEARCHING CURSE-BEARERS.
THAT WOMAN... SHE'S LORD RUTHVEN'S BOURREAU!

NOÊ!!

BORDERS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN GENERATED ALL OVER THE WORLD BY THE EXPERIMENTAL ACCIDENT KNOWN AS "BABEL."

ONLY VAMPIRES, WHO WERE ALSO CREATED BY BABEL, ARE ABLE TO CROSS THEM.

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ONLY VAMPIRES, WHO WERE ALSO CREATED BY BABEL, ARE ABLE TO CROSS THEM.
NOE!!

IF A HUMAN ...
... WERE TO JUMP IN THERE—
VANITAS!!!

...!
AH!
ARE WE THERE ALREADY ??
...OF ALL THE...
WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING !?

"I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO EITHER WORLD"... RIGHT?
IF I HADN'T GRABBED YOUR HAND—!
I KNOW I CAN CROSS THE BORDER AS LONG AS I'M TOUCHING ONE OF YOU.
THIS ISN'T MY FIRST VISIT TO ALTUS.
AND YOU DID GRAB MY HAND.
SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM.

CHARLATAN.
I SAW...

...THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THAT THING.. WARPED MADEMOISELLE AMELIA'S TRUE NAME!
BUT..
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT WAS A DREAM OR REALITY..

THIS IS...
...!

NO, WE'RE FINE
Let's get outside, Noé.
Was there some kind of trouble?
Recording the current time. Welcome back, Lady Dominique de Sade.
...
BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WANTED TO SEPARATE NOÉ AND ME.
SNIK
DON'T PUSH ME DOWN
. . .WHY DID YOU FOLLOW US, HUMAN?
ガチャ
ガチャ
ガチャ
ガチャ

HE LIVED VERY, VERY DEEP IN THE FOREST, YOU SEE
WHA— THAT'S YOUR REACTION IN THIS WORLD TOO?

ALTUS PARIS, THE OTHER PARIS...
NO MATTER WHEN I VISIT, THIS TOWN NEVER CHANGES.

I HAVE A CARRIAGE WAITING JUST OVER THERE.
FOLLOW ME.

IT'S FINE. HE'S ON A LEASH.
DON'T WANDER OFF, NOE.
OH. IS THAT WHY THAT'S THERE?

NOT IN DETAIL.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT OTHER VAMPIRES CALL HIM "THE SHAPELESS ONE," AND THAT THEY'RE AFRAID OF HIM.
DOMI-NIQUE
NOÉ TELLS ME THAT HIS TEACHER IS YOUR GRANDFATHER.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
..AH.
YOU KNOW ABOUT MY GRANDFATHER, THEN?
IS HIS APPEARANCE ALSO DECEIVING? ARE HIS PARENTS ACTUALLY LORDS OF THE OTHER WORLD OR SOMETHING?
THAT NOÉ... HERE I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A BUMPKIN, BUT HE HAS TIES TO GREAT ARISTOCRATS LIKE THE DE SADES.
... NO.

NO.
NOE IS...
ISN'T THIS CARRIAGE A BIT TOO BIG?
YOU SAID WE WERE GOING TO A BALL, RIGHT?
DOM..
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE PLANNING TO GO DRESSED LIKE THAT.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE, TAKE THE COLLAR OFF, PLEASE
I'LL WAIT OUTSIDE WITH VANITAS.
...
DOMI.

DOMI. ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING?

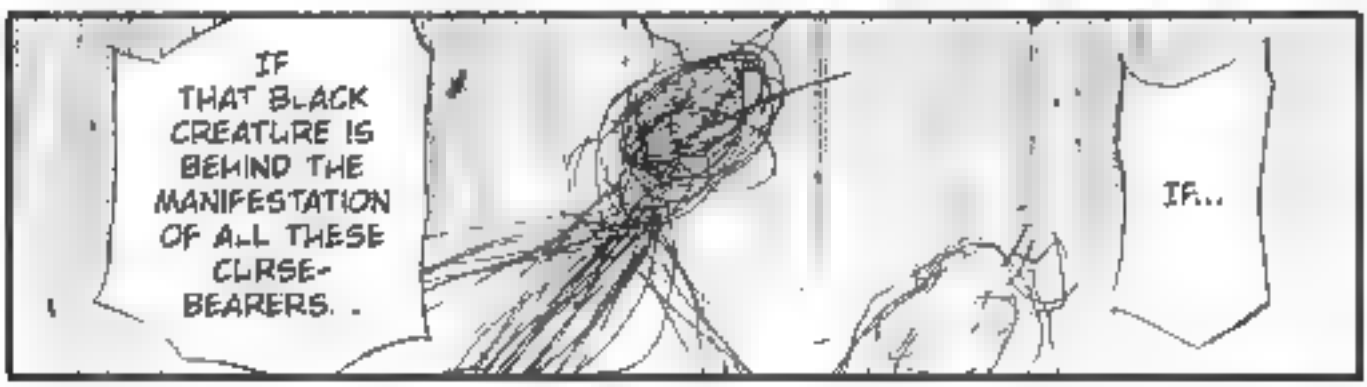
IF WE'RE GOING TO ASK ABOUT CURSE-BEARERS, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE HIM THERE, BUT...
...I DIDN'T CONSIDER YOUR POSITION.
IS IT BECAUSE OF MY BRINGING VANITAS ALONG?

I'M SORRY, DOMI.
HUH
.. THAT ISN'T IT
I'M JUST WORRIED.
I KNOW HE HAS THE BOOK OF VANITAS, AND YOU'RE WITH HIM ON GRANDFATHER'S INSTRUCTIONS
BUT...
. FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED WITH CURSE-BEARERS DIRECTLY.
IT'S JUST.
KACHA
I WORRY
THAT YOU MIGHT BE THINKING THAT WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN IS YOUR FAULT..
KACHA
GASHAN (CLANG)

YOU SMELL NICE...
...
DOMI.
YOU HAVE TO SAY IT PROPERLY.
..BUT NO.
I HAVEN'T HEARD YOU BEG LIKE THAT IN A WHILE.
HEH.
DO YOU WANT TO DRINK MY BLOOD...?
WELL, NOÉ?

YES, DOM!
I WANT YOUR BLOOD
GO AHEAD.
I'LL GIVE YOU ...
...ALL OF IT...

THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES, VANITAS !!
I'M BEING PERFECTLY SERIOUS, DAMN IT!
BUZU (TREMBLE)
"!!"
"...no?"
...AWFUL. MY, BUT YOU'RE A LOUSY ARTIST!!


IF THAT BLACK CREATURE IS BEHIND THE MANIFESTATION OF ALL THESE CURSE-BEARERS. .
IF...

HEH!
HEH!
HEH!
...I'LL NEVER FORGIVE IT.
NEVER !!

...
...MON CHÉRI.
NO.
NOÉ IS..
NOÉ IS AN ORPHAN.

TO BE CONTINUED...

I HEARD ALL, GENTLEMEN !!
WAIT, LADY DOMINIQUE!
AH—
HELLO
DOMI!

I'VE MISSED YOU, MON CHÉRI.

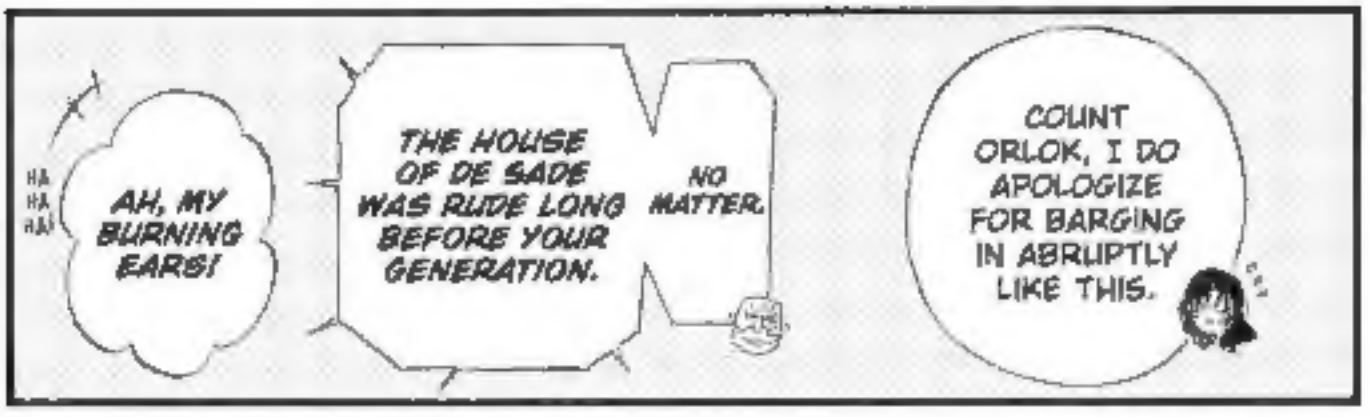
VANAS

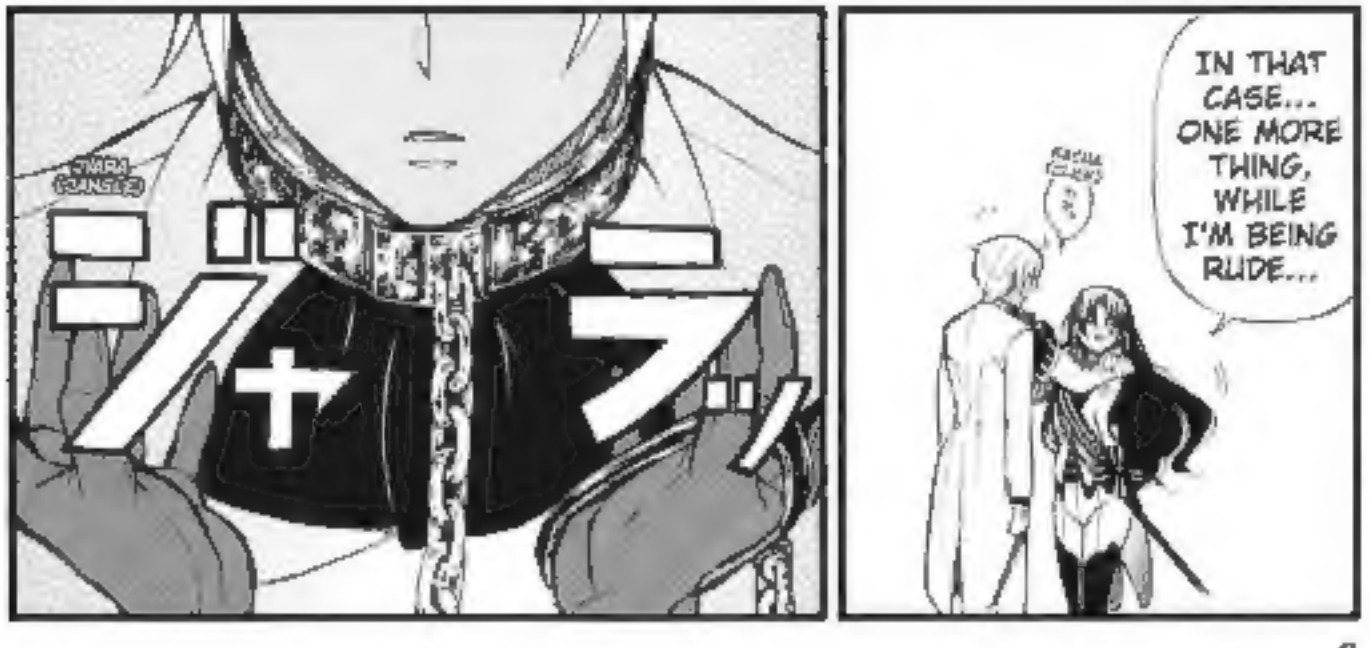
Mémoire 6 Altus OTHER WORLD

IT WAS A LIE !?
NON, NON! DON'T BE ANGRY, MADEMOISELLE.
YOU'LL RUIN YOUR ADORABLE FACE.
!!?
SHE'S DOMINIQUE DE SADE.
AND SHE'S A CHILDHOOD FRIEND, NOT MY FIANCÉE.
THE THING BY HER FEET IS HER ATTENDANT AUTOMATON CHRYSLER.
SHE WAS SCATTERING ACTUAL ROSES!?

MY TEACHER IS HER GRANDFATHER...
TO THINK YOU HAD FRIENDS IN THE ARISTOCRACY... FRANKLY, I'M ASTOUNDED.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES, MUNIN!
THAT'S RIGHT.
DOMINIQUE DE SADE... THEN SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF COUNT DE SADE, A LORD OF THE OTHER WORLD?

...SO DOMI AND I PLAYED TOGETHER OFTEN.


HA HA HA!
AH, MY BURNING EARS!
THE HOUSE OF DE SADE WAS RUDE LONG BEFORE YOUR GENERATION.
NO MATTER.
COUNT ORLOK, I DO APOLOGIZE FOR BARGING IN ABRUPTLY LIKE THIS.


GUNSHOT
IN THAT CASE... ONE MORE THING, WHILE I'M BEING RUDE...

LET ME...
...BORROW NOÉ, IF YOU WOULD.
...?!!
DOMI...
DOMI, WAIT, PLEASE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? JUST COME ALONG QUIETLY.
THIS... THIS COLLAR... WHAT IS IT?

HUH?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
NO! I MEAN—
IT SUITS YOU QUITE WELL.
MY OLDER SISTER GAVE IT TO ME THE OTHER DAY. I BROUGHT IT FOR YOU.
BEYOND THE "BORDER."
WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO TAKE ME?
...AND SO YOU FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY TO PARIS?
I THOUGHT I'D HAVE YOU ESCORT ME, BUT WHEN I DASHED OVER TO AVEROIGNE, THEY SAID YOU'D GONE TO PARIS ON AN ERRAND FOR GRANDFATHER.
I'VE BEEN INVITED TO A *BAL MASQUÉ* OVER THERE.
!

KURU CTURU
YOU COULD TAKE SOMEONE ELSE. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ME...
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
BECAUSE!
I CAME!
TH... THAT ISN'T TRUE.
YES! IF IT INTERESTS YOU, YOU'LL FOLLOW ANYONE ANYWHERE OVER ANYTHING! YOU'RE JUST A CHILD!
DON'T LIE!
U... UH. FOR-TU-NATE !?
LISTEN TO ME, NOÉ!! YOU NEED TO BE AWARE THAT YOU'RE A DANGEROUSLY INNOCENT COUNTRY BUMPKIN WHO'S SEVERAL DIFFERENT KINDS OF UNFORTUNATE!